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MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD 25X1X6

SUBJECT: 25X1X6 Conversation with [REDACTED]

25X1X6

25X1A9a

1. [REDACTED] was introduced to me through [REDACTED] who sent over a series of letters addressed to the Director and to 25X1A9a [REDACTED] together with an article in German on the development of election systems in France, Italy, and Germany since the war.

2. The correspondence started as a result of the Director's speech of 4 May on the Communist attack on parliamentary government. Since I had helped in the preparation of that speech, I was naturally considerably interested in [REDACTED] views.

3. [REDACTED] central thesis is that the proportional representation system is inferior to the majority system with respect to the internal political stability of a country and the reduction of Communist power. Although I had previously been inclined to a somewhat different 25X1A9a 25X1X6 view, as a result of conversations with [REDACTED] I felt that [REDACTED] argument was rather convincing.

4. I was particularly interested in the application of his thesis to France and Italy. These two countries have taken on special interest in the last few months as a result of the crisis in their Communist parties caused by de-Stalinization and the Polish-Hungarian events. We found ourselves in substantial agreement on the proposition that the emergence of two basic party groupings, i.e. Christian-Democratic and Social Democratic in France and Italy would provide clearly defined choice for the voters under a majority system which might result in a substantial diminution of Communist electoral strength. In view of the increasing likelihood of merger between the two Italian Socialist parties, the question of the voting system becomes even more significant.

5. It is evident that [REDACTED] is a highly competent authority in this field and his views seem worthy of serious attention. I suggested to him that he send me a brief discussion of the arguments in favor of a majority electoral system as applied to France and Italy. He agreed to do so. Such a discussion might be of considerable assistance to me in preparing my projected paper on the strength of the Communist parties in France and Italy.

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cc - [REDACTED]

Chief, SRS/DDI

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